

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/567,067

Examiner

Daniel C. Crane

Applicant(s)

ROSENBERGER, GERHARD

Art Unit

3725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed November 9, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14-33.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>1/31/2008</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mathew Hall on January 31, 2008.

IN THE DRAWINGS

The replacement drawing filed November 9, 2007 is NOT approved as the drawing contains subject matter that is not explicitly described in the specification. For example, the specification does not indicate that the bending device 6 is movable in two dimensional directions 11.

Applicant has agreed to submit a new drawing replacement where the dashed line 12 and the numeral 12 has been removed and showing only a one dimensional back and forth movement arrow for numeral 11. Upon submission of such a change, the correction will be permitted.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph at page 3, line 11, with the following:

---However, as part of the present invention, the bending device is also intended to be movable with respect to a background, in particular with respect to the robot. The at least one bending device can preferably be controlled manually and/or mechanically so as to move back

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and forth with respect to the robot on a cross slide, a track system, a linear system or the like in a ~~selectable~~ direction or along a ~~selectable~~ guide system with respect to the position of the robot, as indicated in dashed lines at ~~12~~ 11, the corresponding position coordinates being transferred to the robot ~~3~~, as indicated in dashed lines at ~~13~~.---

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: One reason for allowance is that the prior art of record does not show the claimed method *inter alia* where a robot arm grips a workpiece while feeding the workpiece continuously into the one positionally fixed bending device during bending.

While Ito (6,722,178) shows that the workpiece 40 is fed to a bending device 48, 50 and gripped by a robot 10 while the workpiece 40 is bent, Ito does not teach that the robot grips the workpiece while feeding the workpiece into the bending device during bending. In Ito, no feeding of the workpiece occurs during bending as the bending press bends the workpiece while the workpiece is stationary.

Similarly, Torvinen (6,474,131) shows that the workpiece 100 is gripped by the robot 1 while the workpiece is bent with the workpiece being maintained in a non-feeding manner to the bending press 101, 102 (see Figure 4).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner D. Crane whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4516**.

The examiner's office hours are 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

Documents related to the instant application may be submitted directly by facsimile transmission at all times. The Examiner's Fax number is **(571) 273-4516**. Applicant(s) is(are) reminded to clearly mark any transmission as "DRAFT" if it is **not** to be considered as an official response. The Office Facsimile Center number is **(571) 273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DCCrane
February 1, 2008

/Daniel C Crane/
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Group Art Unit 3725